



# CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

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## MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Councillor Lynda Hundleby

Council Meeting: May 27, 2019

Subject: Report from the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities, Annual General Meeting and Conference 2019

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council receives this Report.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and Convention was held in Powell River, BC at the Powell River Recreation Complex, from April 12 – 14, 2019. We drove to Comox where we boarded the ferry to Powell River and returned via the same route. Powell River's population is now close to 20,000. Although relatively isolated, the town has much to offer their residents. I saw many single family homes, low multi-residential buildings, commercial areas in the downtown area and shopping malls and the modern recreation complex where the conference was held. There are historic buildings, boutique stores, and an active arts and crafts community.

The following are my notes of the conference.

After the official opening, delegates heard from the **keynote speaker**, Mark Collins, President and CEO of BC Ferries. After summarizing his substantial marine background, his education, and experience, he went on to say that safety is his first priority – something I think we all want to hear. Mr. Collins also outlined the corporation's plans for the coming years including \$350M for clean technology, spending and investing for new vessels. He also identified ferries as the single worst emitter of underwater sounds and the need for a mitigation program. And something to look forward to this summer is an improved reservation system for all major routes, primarily to increase the number of reservations and elimination of a reservation fee. His polished succinct presentation was well-received.

Delegates also heard from **Premier John Horgan** and the BC Leader of the Green Party, **Dr. Andrew Weaver**. The Leader of the Provincial Liberals did not attend.

The **Honourable Selina Robinson**, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, addressed delegates and shared her Ministry's current plan for Provincial-Federal funding (90%) for small communities and off-reserve aboriginal housing; current focus on affordable housing through the Building BC Communities Housing Fund. At this time \$9B has been earmarked for a housing program for low- and middle-income families.

**Island Corridor (ICF) Update:** CEO Larry Stevenson

Current activities related to networking, keeping informed on all things pertinent to municipalities and their leadership. He recognizes that BC Transit must be Involved as well as First Nation peoples. He sees three distinct systems for the railway: Victoria to Langford; Nanaimo to Port Alberni; and Courtenay to Victoria.

**Island Health Update:** Chair of the Island Health Board, Leah Hollins

“No question we are stronger together.”

The plan for the Board is to work from intervention to prevention. Finding solutions. Serving needs. Wide-ranging health networks numbering 8 so far.

**Child Care Update:** Michelle Kirby (former Oak Bay Councillor), Building Universal Child Care for BC Together, Manager of partnerships and engagement.

\$1.3B invested in childcare in BC to lay the foundation for universal childcare. The concerns here are related to affordability accessibility and quality. A pilot program for universal childcare is ongoing.

**Fortis BC:** Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) is the future; Moving away from Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)

The **Trade Show** had 20 exhibitors. Convention sponsors included 26 organizations.

The results of the Resolutions will come from the AVICC office, once finalized.

As usual, there was a real opportunity for networking with other delegates from all over Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast and some of the current UBCM Board members including UBCM President Councillor Arjun Singh (Kamloops).

Nominations and elections for AVICC Board: The New Executive for 2019-2020:

President: Councillor Carl Jensen (Central Saanich);

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President: Chair Ian Morrison (Cowichan Valley Regional District);

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President: Penny Cote (Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District);

Directors at Large: Councillor Hazel Braithwaite (Oak Bay),

Councillor Colleen Evans (Campbell River), and

Councillor Cindy Solda (Port Alberni);

Electoral Area Representative: Director Vanessa Craig (Nanaimo Regional District);

Past-President: Director Edwin Grieve (Comox Valley Regional District)

The next AVICC AGM and Convention will be held April 17 – 19, 2020; location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Hundleby